

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hot beverage maker comprising a stand and a brewed beverage tank wherein the brewed beverage tank comprises:

a filter basket mounted inside the tank and in the top thereof;

a reservoir portion of the tank under the filter basket ; and

an outlet port positioned substantially at the bottom of the tank;

a dispenser actuator connected to the outlet port and biased to a closed position, the dispenser actuator comprising a plug, and the plug comprising a stem and a seal ring, wherein the bottom of the stem has a substantially inverted conical shape;

wherein the brewed beverage tank is removably mounted on the stand and is not permanently fastened to the stand.

2. A hot beverage maker as described in claim 1, wherein the dispenser actuator comprises a push-button positioned in the stand below the brewed beverage tank.

3. A hot beverage maker as described in claim 2, wherein the dispenser actuator further comprises a linkage connecting the push-button to the outlet port.

4. A hot beverage maker as described in claim 1, further comprising a warmer plate positioned in the stand, wherein the brewed beverage tank is adapted to be removably mounted on the warmer plate.

5. A hot beverage maker as described in claim 1, further comprising a fresh water chamber and an automatic drip mechanism for making the brewed beverage, the automatic drip mechanism comprising a hot water showerhead disposed above the filter basket and connected via a tube to the fresh water reservoir, wherein the showerhead is adapted to dispense water into the filter basket and brewed liquid drips from the filter basket into the reservoir portion of the tank.

6. A hot beverage maker as described in claim 1, wherein the filter basket has a depth less than the depth of the tank.

7. A dispenser actuator for a hot beverage maker, the actuator comprising a plug adapted to releasably close an outlet port of a hot beverage maker,

the plug comprising a stem and a seal ring, wherein the bottom of the stem has a substantially inverted conical shape.

8. A dispenser actuator as described in claim 7, further comprising a lever arm, with the plug mounted on one end of the lever arm.

9. A dispenser actuator as described in claim 7, further comprising a push-button adapted to be positioned in a hot beverage maker stand below the outlet port.

10. A dispenser actuator as described in claim 7, further comprising a linkage connecting the push-button to the plug.

11. A dispenser actuator as described in claim 7, wherein the stem and seal ring are two different components, and the seal ring is mounted on the stem.